that a 1 million tonne production capacity plant of urea will cost approximately Rs. 3500 crore.

Shortage of fertilizers

*98. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are reports of shortage of fertilizers in various States;

(b) whether Government are also aware that delayed supply or created paucity of fertilizers is adding fuel to fire;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to take necessary steps against erring suppliers and transporters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) Sufficient availability of fertilizers was ensured in each of the months in Kharif 2007.

The cumulative availability and cumulative sales of Urea, DAP and MoP upto 31st July, 2007 have been reported as follows:

(Lakh metric Tonnes)

UREA		DAP		MoP	
Availability	Sales	Availability	Sales	Availability	Sales
86.79	70.77	24.55	20.17	10.25	7.39

The following steps have been taken to ensure adequate availability with reference to month-wise assessed requirement :

(a) Pre-positioning of stocks;

(b) Payment of primary freight in respect of urea on actual basis;

(c) District-wise, company-wise plan;

(d) Monitoring of movement as per plan through web based Fertilizer Monitoring System; and

(e) Payment of subsidy on fertilizers reaching the District level.

Urea is the only fertilizer, which at present is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government of India. The State Governments are adequately empowered by the provisions of the Fertilizer (Control) Order to take action against anybody deliberately creating shortage of fertilizers.